

## CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities provides statewide leadership to help increase employment opportunities for Californians with disabilities.

As a public-private partnership of volunteers, with staff support from the California Employment Development Department (EDD), the Committee consults with and advises the Governor and the Legislature on issues related to full inclusion in the workforce of people with disabilities. This role, which was specified in Assembly Bill 925 (January 1, 2003), includes development of a comprehensive strategy to:

- Bring adults with disabilities into gainful employment at a rate that is as close as possible to that of the general adult population.
- Support goals of equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.
- Ensure that State government is a model employer of individuals with disabilities.
- Support State coordination with, and participation in, benefits training and other projects supported by private foundations and federal grants.

In addition, when funding is available, the Committee works jointly with public agencies and private organizations to make grants available to counties and local workforce investment boards. The Governor's Committee also provides support to the State Workforce

Investment Board and local One-Stop Career Centers to achieve full compliance with State and federal laws.

## Background

Originally established in 1947, the Governor's Committee began as part of a national network of volunteers affiliated with the former President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and community mayors' committees.

## How is the Committee Structured?

The Governor's Committee consists of volunteer members and receives staff support from EDD — a part of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

The Committee's volunteer membership is comprised of decision-makers and those whose expertise is essential in building systems that promote universal access, remove barriers to work, and enable people with disabilities to gain independence and economic self-sufficiency.

The Executive Board includes member-elected officers, plus Chairs of four subcommittees created to oversee the Committee's responsibilities. The subcommittees include:

- Employment Policy and Coordination
- Training and Grants Coordination
- Communication and Marketing
- Programs and Services

The public is encouraged to attend the Committee's quarterly meetings.

## **Major Activities and Projects**

The Governor's Committee works with a number of partners to create and support the following activities and projects:

- **California Model Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities (YLF).** Since 1992, the Committee has held YLF — an intensive career awareness and leadership development program.
- **Media Access Office and Awards Program.** In partnership with EDD's Job Service Branch and other volunteers, the Committee oversees the Media Access Office in Hollywood, and a satellite office in the San Francisco Bay Area. This specialized office acts as a casting liaison service representing more than 900 performers with disabilities while offering classes and career guidance. In addition, an awards event is produced each year that acknowledges the media and entertainment industry for hiring and accurately portraying persons with disabilities.
- **Annual Employer (Best Practices) Awards.** The Committee sponsors an annual awards program to promote best employer practices. Deserving individuals and companies who have contributed to the employment of people with disabilities are acknowledged.
- **California Business Leadership Network.** The California Business Leadership Network (CABLН) is a group of companies working together to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Employer driven, the association's mission is to engage the active participation of the business community to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to obtain work and succeed in the workplace.
- **Disability Awareness Education.** A wealth of information is available through the Committee to help educate employers about

employing persons with disabilities. From a special disability sensitivity-awareness program (known as “Windmills”) to educational publications, the office offers a variety of services to educate employers, students, and organizations.

- **Annual College Scholarships.** A number of scholarships are awarded annually through the efforts of Committee, including the Hal Connolly Scholar-Athlete Awards, and scholarships for young performers through the Media Access Office. Each seeks to further employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.
- **Affiliated Community Mayors’ Committees.** The Governor’s Committee is part of a national volunteer network that includes the National Association of Governors’ Committees and community mayors’ committees. The office promotes and supports affiliated groups in nearly 30 California communities.

## For More Information

For further information or to become more involved, please visit EDD’s Internet site at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov) and click on “Services For People With Disabilities” or contact:

California Governor’s Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities

EDD

800 Capitol Mall, Room 1022, MIC 41

Sacramento, CA 95814

Ph: (916) 654-8055 or 1-800-695-0350

TTY: (916) 654-9820

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An additional resource can be found at

[www.disabilityemployment.org](http://www.disabilityemployment.org), Web site of the Friends of the California Governor’s Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities, Inc.